

REMARKS

Claims 52, 54-56 are currently pending. Claims 57-63 are new. Claims 1-51 and 53 have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications.

No new issues of patentability are raised by the instant amendments. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at pages 8-9 and 11-12, as well as Figure 7.

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 121 Restriction Requirement**I. The Examiner's Election Requirement**

The Examiner stated that this application contains claims directed to the following:

Species 1: Figure 3.

Species 2: Figure 5

Species 3: Figure 7

The Examiner requested that applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has also requested a listing of claims

readable on the selected species. Although the Examiner has found at least claim 31 to be generic, that claim was previously cancelled. As stated, claims 52, 54-56 are currently pending and claims 57-63 are new as of this amendment.

II. Applicants' Provisional Election of Species With Traverse

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement. However, in order to facilitate prosecution and to avoid a holding of non-responsiveness in this application, applicants elect with traverse to pursue prosecution of Species 3, Figure 7. The stent illustrated by Figure 7 contains first and second loop containing sections or even and odd circumferential bands connected exclusively by third loop containing sections or flexible connectors having loops between connections, forming a stent with cells in which one cell is larger than other cells.

All currently presented claims, claims 52, 54-63, are readable on Figures 7.

III. Applicants' Traversal

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that: (1) the instant set of claims is properly presented in one application; (2) undue diverse searching is not required since all the claims are in the same class; and (3) all claims should be examined together.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

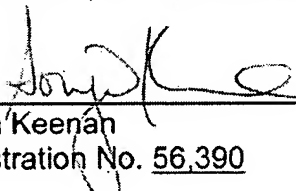
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-4387, Order No. 92077.003.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-4387, Order No. 92077.003.

Respectfully submitted,
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